
A New Combination in *Morella* (Myricaceae) in Mesoamerica

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ABSTRACT. While completing the account of Myricaceae for *Flora Mesoamericana* it was discovered that a new combination was necessary in the genus *Morella*: *M. lindeniana*. It is here provided along with a short synopsis of the distribution of the species and its differences from the widespread *Morella cerifera*.

Key words: Mesoamerica, *Morella*, *Myrica*, Myricaceae.

The small family Myricaceae contains much morphological variation, and currently taxonomists recognize four genera: *Myrica* L., *Morella* Loureiro, *Comptonia* L'Héritier ex Aiton, and *Canacomyrica* Guillaumin (Wilbur, 2001). These genera correspond to previously recognized subgeneric groupings used by the last monographer of the family (Chevalier, 1901), but recently it has come to light that Chevalier (1901) incorrectly lectotypified the genus *Myrica* with *Myrica cerifera* L. (see Wilbur, 2001, for a full discussion). Verdcourt and Polhill's (1997) proposal to conserve the generic name *Myrica* with a conserved type of *Myrica cerifera* was rejected by the Committee for Spermatophyta (Brummit, 1999). This necessitates the transfer of specific epithets for a large number of species from *Myrica* to *Morella*. Many of these transfers have already been made (Wilbur, 1994; Killick et al., 1998; Wilbur, 2001), or are in the process of being made (Parra-Osorio, pers. comm.), but one such transfer is necessary now to provide a valid name for a species recognized in the treatment of Myricaceae for *Flora Mesoamericana*.

Morella lindeniana (C. DC.) S. Knapp, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Myrica lindeniana* C. DC., Prodr. 16(2): 150. 1864. TYPE: Mexico. Chiapas: *J. Linden 10* (holotype, G).

Morella lindeniana is morphologically similar to the more common and widespread *Morella cerifera* (L.) Small, but differs from it in its uniformly serrate leaves, with the serrations not confined to the distal margins, its longer leaves with more numerous and prominent secondary veins (Burger, 1977), and in its higher-elevation distribution. *Morella lindeniana* is found in the Mexican state of Chiapas, Guatemala, and Honduras from 1600 to 2700 m in moist mixed forests, while *M. cerifera* is primarily found below 1600 m in a wide variety of drier habitats.

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